Overseas Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

Programme Overview

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is a leading public research university located in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, which offers degree programmes in Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering; Computer, Electrical, and Mathematical Sciences and Engineering; and Physical Sciences and Engineering. Established in 2009, KAUST has one of the fastest growing research and citation records in the world.

A fully-funded programme, the KAUST Visiting Student Research Internship Program is an excellent opportunity for exceptional higher level undergraduates to conduct research with faculty mentors in selected areas of basic and applied research projects. The projects (found on this website) are offered by the Biological and Environmental Science and Engineering Division, Computer, Electrical and Mathematical Science and Engineering Division, as well as the Physical Science and Engineering Division. More details on these divisions can be found on https://www.kaust.edu.sa/en/research/academic-divisions.

For NUS students, please refer to the sections "Eligibility Criteria" and "Programme Application Procedure and Deadline" stated on this website instead, as you will need to be nominated by NUS.

Location

The programme takes place in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia.

Dates

The programme takes place from 11 May 2020 to 31 July 2020.

Credits

Students will be assessed according to KAUST's assessment criteria and receive a transcript issued by the institution. Credits obtained may be transferred to a 4 Modular Credits (MCs) Level 2000/3000 UROPS for Life Sciences, Chemistry and Physics majors.

For students taking a major in other areas, the 4 MCs will be counted towards Unrestricted Electives (UE), unless mapping of the research project to a Level 2000/3000 UROPS is approved by the NUS department. Do note that the approval process will be requested by the Science Dean's Office on the students' behalf, and additional assessment may be required from the student by the NUS department for transferring of credits to a UROPS module.

With effect from AY2018/2019, students may transfer up to a maximum of 10 MCs for each summer programme (takes place between May and July) and up to a maximum of 5 MCs for each winter programme (takes place in December). Please note that when you submit a request for Credits Transfer via Education Records System (EduRec), you must ensure that the correct number of MCs to be transferred is accurate. For instance, if you would like to transfer 10 MCs for a summer school, please request for Credits Transfer for 10 MCs.

Students can map a total of 12 MCs from a maximum of 2 overseas summer/winter programmes without having to pay tuition at NUS. Any additional MCs mapped will be subjected to NUS Special Term fees.
Eligibility Criteria

NUS students must:

- Be a full-time Faculty of Science student.
- Have a clean disciplinary record.
- All Year 2 and Year 3 students may apply
- Not intending to graduate at the end of Semester 2.
- Not be National Servicemen who are called up for In-Camp Training (ICT). Deferment letter will not be provided.

Shortlisted candidates may be required to attend an interview at the Science Dean’s Office. Interview details will be provided at a later date. After accepting the internal offer, you will be informed further on subsequent steps and project requirements. After accepting the internal offer, you will be informed further on subsequent steps and project requirements.

An internal offer does not guarantee your placement in the programme. Your admission outcome is up to the discretion of the partner institution.

Number of Places

There are 5 places for this programme.

Programme Cost

Students do not need to pay NUS Special Term fees or tuition fees to KAUST if they do not exceed the credits transfer limit stated under the section "Credits" above. However, students are responsible for their own airfare, accommodation, meals, personal expenses, etc.

Estimated cost (Please note that the figures provided are only estimates, and exclude the monthly stipend provided by KAUST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return Airfare</td>
<td>Provided by KAUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Provided by KAUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Transport</td>
<td>SGD700/month</td>
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</tbody>
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Financial Assistance

Participants will receive the following benefits from KAUST:

- Stipend of USD1,000 per month
- Round-trip airfare to/from city of departure-Jeddah (KAUST)
- Health insurance
- Private bedroom and bath in a shared residential suite
• Visa fees (Students must have a valid passport)
• Access to community recreational resources
• Social and cultural activities

Do note that due to the above benefits, participants will not be eligible to apply for NUS Awards for Study Abroad (NASA) Enhancement Scholarship/Bursary to support their participation in this programme.

Programme Application Procedure and Deadline

Students are to contact the faculty members at KAUST to secure a placement and submit a proof of acceptance by the supervisor in a form of letter or email.

Next, login to Education Records System (EduRec) and submit your application under External Study Type “Research Attachment/Internship/Industrial Attachment”. Please also submit the following documents to scisap@nus.edu.sg with the subject, “Overseas Summer Research 2019 – [Name of Partner University]”. The application deadline and documents submission deadline is 17 January 2020.

1. Proof of acceptance by the faculty member/supervisor at KAUST in a form of a letter or email. If you are unable to secure a placement by the application deadline, please shortlist up to 3 supervisors and list them down in your personal statement.

2. Latest NUS unofficial transcript (downloadable from EduRec).

3. Curriculum Vitae. Highlight any prior research experience that you may have to support your application.

4. Personal statement, including your area of research interest/project, why you are interested in the mentioned area/project, etc.

5. One recommendation letter from a faculty member in field/s related to your major. Please ask your recommender to send the recommendation letter, either via hardcopy or softcopy, directly to the Science Dean’s Office (Attn: Miss Lorraine Kwan) or to scisap@nus.edu.sg with the subject ‘Summer UROPS Application_Name_Partner University” for the Partner University you are applying for. Please refer to Guide for Student Programme Application BEFORE your application. You will need to log on to NUS WebVPN before accessing the Guide and EduRec.

Insurance

All students travelling overseas for activities or purposes approved, endorsed, organised, sponsored or authorised by NUS will be covered by the NUS Student Travel Insurance Policy. Click here (under Insurance Cover for Official NUS Trips) for more information.

Exclusions to the NUS Student Travel Insurance may apply. Students are to ensure that they have sufficient travel insurance coverage, and may consider purchasing additional travel insurance if required.

Contact Details

If you have any questions, please contact us at scisap@nus.edu.sg.